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We Are...Marshall, March 5, 2010

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MARCH 5, 2010

Lockridge, Mhango receive Women of Color Awards



Anita Lockridge

Marshall University employees Anita Lockridge and Dr. Mary Mhango received the MU Women of Color Awards March 1 during the annual Women of Color program in the Memorial Student Center.

Lockridge is Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, a position she has held since July 2007. Mhango, who is an associate professor and program coordinator with Family and Consumer Sciences, has been at Marshall since fall 2006.

Nominees for the award must be Cabell County residents or

Marshall University employees or students. Selections are based on community and/or university service, and contribution towards promoting multicultural understanding and gender equality.

"I am very excited and honored to have been selected from among the many outstanding women at Marshall University and in the community," Lockridge said. "I am a passionate advocate of the development of women and am grateful to others who have paved the way. I remain

Marshall Introduces MUMobile iPhone Application

Marshall University has released an Apple iPhone application that is designed to promote the university's major Web-enabled resources to an increasing population of current and potential students using mobile Internet devices.



"A growing number of our students, faculty and staff use the iPhone/iPod Touch and other mobile devices to access information and services on the Internet. It is essential we provide our constituents with tools optimized to the major mobile platforms as they become more and more popular," said Allen Taylor, Chief Technology Officer. "This Marshall University application is just one way we are facilitating advanced communications to our mobile users."

The MUMobile application can be used to search the campus phone

directory, locate buildings on campus, view available courses, keep up with the latest sports scores, and get access to events happening on campus. The university's

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Dr. Mary Mhango

hopeful that I am doing my part to continue their most admirable work."

Mhango said receiving the award serves as "quite an incentive" for her. "Receiving this award makes me want to do more," she said. "It is a source of inspiration. It is a great honor and I really appreciate the recognition."

Lockridge was nominated for the award by Dr. Shari Clarke, vice president for multicultural affairs at Marshall. Mhango was nominated by Dr. Kathy Seelinger, professor of education.

Gay Thomas Named Employee of the Month

W. Gay Thomas, Administrative Secretary Senior in the College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE) has been named the Employee of the Month for January, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee for 23 years, she was nominated by CITE faculty members Dr. Tracy Cristoforo, Dr. Tom Hankins, and Dr. Eldon Larsen.

In her nomination Cristoforo wrote, "During the two years I have been at Marshall Gay has been an invaluable



Gay Thomas (left) receives a check, her prize as Employee of the Month, from Dr. Rudy Pauley, associate vice president for outreach and continuing studies.

asset for the College of Information Technology and Engineering, current and prospective Technology Management students, and for me. From day one Gay took me under her wing and shared her wealth of knowledge about university, college, department and

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'Baskets for Branches' to Benefit Domestic Violence Shelter

Hoping to help victims of domestic violence in a tangible way, students with Marshall University's College of Fine Arts have launched a fundraiser called "Baskets for Branches."

Branches Domestic Violence Shelter is a nonprofit organization serving Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Mason and Putnam counties in West Virginia. In addition to providing advocate assistance to victims of domestic assault, Branches also provides free temporary shelter, food and clothing to anyone – male or female – who needs assistance to flee a dangerous domestic situation.



Posing with an example basket similar to ones being requested for the "Baskets for Branches" drive are, from left, Nikki Gilliam, art major; Lindsay DiFatta, music major; and Jaye Ike, College of Fine Arts special projects coordinator. Photo by Sholten Singer (photography major).

Surplus Sale Slated for March 15 and 16

Marshall's public surplus sale, which offers a wide array of items, takes place Monday, March 15 and Tuesday, March 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Art Warehouse building located at 201 21st Street.

Successful bidders will be required to pay for and pick up their purchases no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 19.

For additional information call Deborah Watson at ext. 6-6678 or e-mail her at watsond@marshall.edu.

"Our students are collecting laundry baskets with essential and personal items for individuals who are, in many cases, leaving a situation with literally the clothes on their backs," said Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts. "We are asking everyone community-wide to support this fundraiser, as we hope to collect a minimum of 50 baskets."

Essential items requested for the fundraiser include a laundry basket filled with a pillow, hairbrush, toothbrush, toothpaste and laundry detergent. Other items might include diapers, baby wipes, school supplies, books, toys, disposable razors and other toiletries. Baskets are needed for men, women and children. The donated baskets will be collected in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 17.

The fundraiser is a part of the 2010 Marshall University Birke Fine Arts Symposium: *Giving Voice: Social Justice and the Arts*.

For more information contact Jaye Ike, special projects coordinator for COFA, at 304-696-3296 or jaye.ike@marshall.edu.

Feminist art exhibition begins March 12

Mavens Nine, an exhibition by The Feminist Art Project, will open at 6 p.m. Friday, March 12 at Gallery 842 in Huntington. The exhibition will continue until Friday, April 23.

The Feminist Art Project is an established group of local artists who share the common goal of highlighting the talent and significance of female artists. The collection of artists is a continuation of the group previously launched by Katherine Cox in 2008.

Featured artists in *Mavens Nine* include Earline Allen, Natalie Burdette, Katherine Cox, Mary Grassell, Linda Helgason, Natalie Larsen, Staci Leech, Carter Seaton and Kristen Zammiello, many of whom are part-time or full-time faculty at Marshall University's College of Fine Arts. The work included in the exhibition is an eclectic collection, varying in both medium and subject matter. Media range from graphite drawings and oil paintings to pottery and other three-dimensional pieces.

"As a member of the local chapter of The Feminist Art Project, I'm excited to be participating in the upcoming exhibition, *Mavens Nine*, at Gallery 842," said Natalie Larsen, assistant professor of art at Marshall. "I'm honored to be associated with a group of inspired women who are curious and capable artists engaged in bringing good art and challenging new ideas to the local community."

Larsen said her work is inspired by many things: children's books and illustrations, literature, American history, religious studies, genealogy and art history. "I strive to make art work that is accessible to a wide audience, but also challenges viewers to ask questions and move beyond what is comfortable," she said.

Gallery 842 is both a community- and university-held space to promote local talent and initiative. The gallery is a free cultural experience for any artist or art enthusiast, located at 842 4th Ave. in downtown Huntington. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.

WE ARE...MARSHALL®



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry

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Profile: Edna Thomas



Edna Thomas

Edna Thomas would love to say that living in West Virginia after a move from the deep South has made her an outdoors person, but it hasn't. "My idea of being outdoors is sitting in my porch swing with a book," she quips.

Actually Thomas, an administrative secretary senior for the education doctoral program on the South Charleston campus, is a transplanted Yankee, who found herself in Tuscaloosa, Ala., a few years ago

when she followed her husband, Bill, an Episcopal priest, to his newest parish. It was a major culture shock for this New England native who grew up in Brookline, a suburb of Boston, with a sailor's love of the ocean. For the first 13 years of her life, her family had a summer place on Cape Cod, where she and her three sisters spent blissful summers reveling in the beach and the ocean spray. It's tough being landlocked, she admits. "I miss the ocean. I miss the sound, the smell and, most of all, the fresh seafood!"

But through the sometimes nomadic journeys she and her husband have undertaken, there were some surprises and learning experiences. "When we were first married, Bill was working in radio/television advertising sales and management and we lived all over New England with some stints on Long Island. One time we lived at the very northeastern tip of Long Island, which actually is a big farming region ... It's very rural and so different from what most people think of. When you say 'Long Island' people naturally think urban sprawl."

The couple's lives changed when Bill answered a life-long yearning for the ministry and entered a seminary in Wisconsin. To help out financially, Thomas found work as a unit clerk in a drug and alcohol inpatient treatment hospital, where she worked until her job was eliminated. A passionate reader, she then found her vocation when she went to work in an independent bookstore. It was the kind of work she had been looking for all her life, but didn't know it. But life moved on and after Bill's graduation and another stay on Long Island followed by a stint in Rhode Island, the Thomas family headed south. Thomas admits that the move to Alabama was not without some apprehension.

"I had never lived anywhere remotely southern and I had some preconceived notions. But Tuscaloosa turned out to be a fine place to live. It's actually a unique city. First it is a university community, the home of the University of Alabama. Then Mercedes Benz and the Japanese firm JVC both opened factories right outside of town, so there was an influx of both Japanese and Germans. It turned out to be a very cosmopolitan place to live. It was still the Deep South and I was a Yankee from the Northeast but I liked everything about it except it was so hot and I was a long way from my family."

And it was in Tuscaloosa that she once again found a dream job, as manager of newly opened independent bookstore, and this time it lasted for seven years. Mention reading and you've opened a dam. "Reading is my private passion, my entertainment," Thomas says. "I love being around books, reading them, selling them, finding good homes for them." She was devastated when the store had to close a few months after 9/11. But she was soon back among her beloved books when she was hired to supervise the relocation of materials to a newly constructed library annex at the University of Alabama.

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Gay Thomas

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program policies and procedures. She has a wealth of knowledge, and what she doesn't know, she knows how to find out. She typically anticipates any questions and needs, and is proactive in researching and reporting her findings ... I always count on her to point me in the right direction...Gay brightens my day."

Hankins notes that "Not only is she efficient, effective, and extraordinary in her own right, through her support we faculty also become more efficient and effective." He has high praise for her dedication to both students and faculty. He cites as examples the lengths she goes to advise students on administrative procedures. "She makes students and graduate assistants feel valued and a part of our college community. While we faculty get awards for being outstanding advisors, Gay is the one who advises us."

Hankins says Thomas is meticulous about following up student requests and has willingly taken on extra duties as needed. "Gay never complains about working extra hours at times to ensure that special projects get done or ensuring someone is present during hours students are likely to need help...In the years she has worked for us, she has always agreed to help whenever I requested it, and never have I seen her cross with any of her South Charleston faculty. Her sense of humor is priceless. She keeps us laughing, looks on the positive side of situations, and generally brightens our corner of the world."

Thomas is a true champion of finding ways to better serve students, Larsen observes. "She makes the students truly feel we care! And she does care! She has developed close relationships with our students. They often call her, even after graduation to update her on what is happening in their lives." In addition, she is an innovative thinker who is constantly looking for ways to market the program. "She will not let us forget that we need to market our gem of offerings here in South Charleston. She has never been asked to do this, she just does it."

He echoes his colleagues' praise for her dedication to the faculty. Thomas makes every effort to make sure the office runs smoothly, everything from promptly ordering supplies, assuring textbooks orders are on time and student registrations are taken care of, he says. In addition "...she goes after answers to our questions regarding university procedures and helps track down sources of information. Again, she is proactive in this and does not have to wait to be asked ... Gay is tops at keeping everything organized and on time. We are blessed to have a fine secretary like Gay Thomas."

Thomas was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by Dr. Rudy Pauley, Associate Vice President for Outreach and Continuing Studies.

Classified Staff Election Results Announced

The winners of the recent Classified Staff Council election to fill vacancies are as follows:

- Group 30 – Other Professionals, Jennifer Jimison, Financial Aid
- Group 40 – Technical/Paraprofessional, Kelly Preston, Autism
- Group 60/70 – Skilled Craft/Service Maintenance, Dwayne McCallister, Housing; Jennings Stiltner, Housing

The representatives will serve until June 30, 2011.

Edna Thomas

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After eight years in Alabama, the Thomas family was ready to make another move, this time to Charleston, where Bill currently is the pastor at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in the South Hills area of the city. It wasn't long before Edna caught the eye of Sally Love, the founder and chief mover behind the Snowshoe Institute, an ambitious four-day arts festival fashioned after the renowned Chautauqua Institution in New York. She was employed as a "Jill of all trades" and quickly became an indispensable part of the festival. However, the Institute lasted for only two more years before it was finally forced to close because of lack of financial support.

In a bit of serendipity Thomas celebrated St. Patrick's Day 2006 in a true green and white fashion, combining that traditionally green holiday with her first day on the job at Marshall. Working with the doctoral program has been fulfilling in every way, she says. "This job fits me well because by nature I'm a nurturer. For good or for bad, I mother everyone. My children are now adults on their own and our two cats can only take so much mothering, so I get to transfer my need to nurture to the students ... These students have so much going on in their lives. Most of them have full-time jobs, they're managing families and they are working on doctoral degrees. There's a lot of stress and if I can help with things that I can do and they can't, that's what I'm here for."

Thomas herself has spent the past several years fulfilling longtime goals, many of them focused on helping others find their way along spiritual paths. She became a Certified Spiritual Director after graduating from the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality last May. "I love to walk with people on their spiritual journeys and watch them develop a relationship with God."

In addition, she's an Education for Ministry mentor. EfM, she explains is an international program developed at Sewanee, the University of the South designed for the theological education of the lay person. It's a grueling four-year commitment with 36 weeks of class per year. She's been a mentor since completing the program four years ago. "This is where my deep gladness lies. I'm with people as they are learning scripture, church history and theology while exploring their own beliefs. We have representatives from all different faiths and it is fascinating to observe someone's light bulb go off, to see them have an 'aha' moment. Tracking people as they go through the four years you can see the growth that occurs and it is wonderful ... And now I'm mentoring a group of people that meets online. We have people for all over the U.S. as well as one person from the African country of Djibouti."

The ever-energetic Thomas is even making time to complete her RBA degree. She's also a charter member of a book club that meets monthly. And she's valiantly struggling to complete some knitting projects. "With four daughters, my mother taught us all to knit and sew and although I love to knit it's a challenge for me to do anything complicated." But there is a bright side to knitting, according to Thomas. "You can't eat and knit at the same time," she observes.

She's delighted that their son, Adam, also an ordained Episcopal priest, has just taken a position as an assistant rector at a church in the Boston area. "We are so thrilled that he will be back in our own hometown." Daughter Melinda is doing well as an Anusura Yogi instructor and artist in Raleigh, N.C. In addition Melinda is building a virtual assistant business focusing primarily on health care.

If her life is sometimes frenzied, the mellow Thomas takes it all in stride and keeps it all together with an impish sense of humor. When she was interviewed for her current job, she was asked where she saw herself in five years. "I said I wanted to be a retired grandmother. It's been four years now and I'm nowhere near retirement nor being a grandmother. But if I were retired, my time would be spent on spiritual direction, mentoring, reading, and playing with the grandchildren I don't have yet!"

Marshall to lead renewable energy project for surface-mined properties

Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall are partnering with the West Virginia Division of Energy (WVDE) Office of Coalfield Community Development on a project to demonstrate renewable energy applications on surface-mined properties.

Dr. Tony Szwilski, director of CEGAS, said the goal of the project is to encourage the reuse of West Virginia's surface-mined land, whether through the direct development of renewable energy projects or by growing crops used by the energy industry.

"West Virginia has a mandate to significantly increase the production of renewable energy in the state," he said. "With this project, Marshall University is taking a leading role in assessing wind, solar and biomass energy resource potential on surface-mined lands. It is an important project and one in which we are pleased to be a key player."

A total of \$500,000 in state and federal funding is being provided for the project, including \$400,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission and \$100,000 from the WVDE.

According to Szwilski, CEGAS will be conducting two separate initiatives—the first will assess and advance wind energy opportunities, and the second will encourage sustainable biomass, wind and solar energy applications.

As one of its initiatives, CEGAS will administer a grant program to support renewable energy projects on surface-mined land. As many as six competitive grants of up to \$50,000 each will be awarded to projects with the potential to yield sustainable biomass energy production, wind generation of electricity, and solar photovoltaic and concentrated solar power applications.

Each grant will require a 50 percent match and will have an 18-month timeframe for completion. The WVDE will make the final determination on project funding.

Szwilski said project results will be useful in determining future alternative energy development across the state.

Results will be made available on the Web sites of the West Virginia Division of Energy (www.energywv.org) and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (www.wvbrownfields.com).

iPhone Application

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Information Technology Division used Blackboard Inc.'s MobileEDU platform and services to develop the application.

Taylor said the project offered a unique opportunity to involve students in the development process as both the College of Science and the College of Information Technology and Engineering had students contribute to the project as part of their senior design projects.

A complimentary mobile site has been launched at <http://m.marshall.edu> offering similar features to users of other mobile devices. Work is already in progress on a RIM Blackberry version of the application, and plans are to also offer a Google Android and Windows Phone Series 7 version in the future.

Additional information is available by contacting Allen Taylor, Chief Information Technology Officer, at allen.taylor@marshall.edu, or go online to www.marshall.edu/mumobile.